

**TOWN OF SENECA FALLS  
WASTE DISPOSAL LAW**

Local Law #\_\_ for the year 2016. Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Seneca Falls as follows:

**Section I. TITLE**

This Local Law shall be known as the **TOWN OF SENECA FALLS WASTE DISPOSAL LAW.**

**Section II. FINDINGS**

A. The Town Board of the Town of Seneca Falls finds as follows:

1. The New York State Environmental Conservation Law ("ECL") invites local governments to establish more strict standards as are necessary, in their judgment, to promote and protect the well-being, health and safety of their citizens;
2. The Town of Seneca Falls is a good place to live and work, in part because of the clean air, fresh water, and the abundant housing, cultural, historic, and recreational opportunities that are available in and around the Town of Seneca Falls;
3. The Town of Seneca Falls is proud of its importance as a world renowned destination for visitors due to its status as the birthplace of the Women's Rights Movement, and the home of the Women's Rights Hall of Fame, the Women's Rights National Historic Park, and the New York State Heritage Area;
4. The Town of Seneca Falls is also importantly located at the gateway of the successful Finger Lakes viticultural region which in recent years has created new employment opportunities for town residents, and has attracted visitors to the Town of Seneca Falls;
5. The earth's supply of fresh water is limited, and the Town of Seneca Falls' location on the Seneca River between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, two of our state's largest supplies of fresh water, puts the Town of Seneca Falls in an important position in terms of protecting the purity and quality of those waterbodies, which are absolutely essential to the long term viability of the Town of Seneca Falls;
6. Present solid waste management activities in the Town of Seneca Falls generate offensive and unreasonable odors which affect substantial portions of the Town of Seneca Falls, resulting in regular and numerous complaints to the Town of Seneca Falls;
7. Present solid waste management activities in the Town of Seneca Falls also generate substantial amounts of truck traffic which presents safety threats to motorists, pedestrians and others in and travelling through the Town of Seneca Falls;

8. The Town of Seneca Falls Town Board has a legitimate governmental interest in protecting the health, safety and welfare of the people who live in, work in and visit Seneca Falls from the deleterious effects of air and water pollution, odors, traffic, noise, dust, litter, and vectors from the management and disposal of solid waste within the corporate limits of the Town of Seneca Falls;
9. The inability of geological science to precisely ascertain the existence and flow of groundwaters and to map subterranean geology makes it impossible to determine the extent to which solid and liquid waste disposal in the Town of Seneca Falls may, or may not be, contaminating surface waters, groundwater, and existing water supplies;
10. Groundwater and surface water pollution threatens the health and livelihood of Town of Seneca Falls residents, including those people who rely exclusively on groundwater for human consumption and agricultural purposes;
11. Future correction of pollution from solid or liquid waste management facilities, including sanitary landfills and incineration facilities, may be very expensive, impracticable or impossible to achieve;
12. Children, because of their growth and development, are particularly sensitive to environmental pollution, and the Town of Seneca Falls' children must be protected from the deleterious effects of solid waste management facilities, including air and water pollution;
13. An environment of odor, air pollution, traffic, noise and dust from solid waste management facilities is incompatible with the Town of Seneca Falls' important position as the home of its residents, home of the Women's Rights Movement, and gateway to the Finger Lakes; and
14. The health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town of Seneca Falls is of paramount importance and concern, and would be better served by restricting the operation of solid waste management facilities within the Town of Seneca Falls in order to promote and preserve a clean, wholesome and attractive environment for the community and for future generations.

### **Section III. PURPOSE**

- A. The Town of Seneca Falls intends by this Local Law to:
  1. Restrict the operation of solid waste management facilities within the Town of Seneca Falls in order to promote a clean, wholesome and attractive environment for the community and to protect the town water supply;
  2. Protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town of Seneca Falls from undesirable effects of solid waste management facilities including:

- a. unaesthetic results, including odors, blowing litter, increased traffic, dust, and noise, and;
  - b. deterioration in property values associated with an adjacent or proximate disposal operation that may interfere with the orderly development of properties; and
  - c. threats to public health or the environment by contamination of air, surface water or groundwaters.
3. To exercise the Town of Seneca Falls' police powers under the Municipal Home Rule Law and Sections 130 and 136 of the Town Law for the physical and mental well-being and safety of its citizens and to restrict waste disposal operations within the town that might otherwise be permitted under the ECL. Sections 27-0711 of the ECL specifically recognizes and authorizes the right and authority of the Town of Seneca Falls to legislate stricter controls on solid waste management operation than state law requires.

#### **Section IV.           APPLICABILITY**

**This Local Law shall apply to all territory within the confines of the Town of Seneca Falls.**

#### **Section V.           DEFINITIONS**

A. Unless defined below or the context otherwise requires, the terms and words used in the Local Law shall have the same meanings as those defined in Article 27 of the ECL and Title 6, Parts 360 to 364 and 617, of the Official Compilation of New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations.

B. As used in this Local Law, these terms and words shall be defined as follows:  
6 NYCRR - Title 6 of the New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations.

**ASH or ASH RESIDUE** - all the solid residue and any entrained liquids resulting from the combustion of solid waste at a solid waste incinerator, including bottom ash, boiler ash, fly ash and the solid residue of any air pollution control device used in a solid waste incinerator.

**ASHFILL** - any landfill designed to accept ash, ash residue, bottom ash, combined ash, or fly ash.

**COMMERCIAL WASTE** - liquid or solid waste generated by stores, offices, warehouses and restaurants.

**COMPOSTING** - aerobic decomposition of solid organic constituents of solid waste to produce a stable, humus-like material used for fertilizing and conditioning land.

**CONSTRUCTION and DEMOLITION DEBRIS** - uncontaminated, inert solid waste resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair and demolitions of structures, and from road building and land clearing. Such waste includes, but is not

limited to bricks, concrete, and other masonry materials, soil, rock, wood, wall coverings, plaster drywall, asphaltic pavement, glass, plastics that are not sealed in a manner that conceals other wastes, and metals that are incidental to any of the above.

**CONTAINMENT POND or POOL** - any basin, tank, pond or pool for the disposal, storage, retention, procession treatment or other handling of liquid waste.

**DEC** - the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

**DISPOSAL** - the placement, distribution, storage, removal or transportation of solid wastes.

**ECL** - the New York Environmental Conservation Law

**FACILITY** - any solid waste management facility.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE** - waste meeting the definition set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 371.

**HOUSEHOLD WASTE** - liquid or solid waste from residential sources.

**INDUSTRIAL WASTE** - any liquid, gaseous, solid or waste substance or combination thereof resulting from any process of industry, manufacturing, trade or business. It shall include, but not be limited to, pesticides, lime, acids, chemicals, petroleum products, tar, and dye-stuffs.

**LANDFILL or SANITARY LANDFILL** - any disposal area for solid wastes in or upon the ground.

**MANURE** - refuse of stables and barnyards consisting of livestock or avian excreta with or without litter used for fertilizing land.

**PERSON** - any individual, partnership, firm, association, business, industry, enterprise, public or private corporation, political subdivision of the state, government agency, municipality, estate, trust or any other legal entity whatsoever.

**RECYCLING** - means the reuse of solid waste recovered from the solid waste stream into goods or materials suitable for reuse in original or changed form.

**SEWAGE** - the water carrying human or animal wastes from residences, buildings, industrial establishments or other places, together with such ground water infiltration and surface water as may be present.

**SOLID or LIQUID WASTE** - all putrescible and non-putrescible materials or substances that are discarded or rejected as being spent, useless, worthless, or in

excess to the owners at the time of such discard or rejection, including but not limited to liquids, garbage refuse, industrial, commercial and household waste, sludges from air or water treatment facilities, rubbish, tires, ashes, contained gaseous material, incinerator ash and residue and construction and demolition debris. In addition:

1. A material is "discarded" if it is abandoned by being:
  - a. disposed of;
  - b. burned or incinerated, including being burned as a fuel for the purpose of recovering useable energy; or
  - c. accumulated, stored, or physically, chemically, or biologically treated (other than burned or incinerated) instead of being disposed of.
2. A material is "disposed of" if it is discharged, deposited, injected, dumped, spilled, leaked, or placed into or on any land or water.

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY** - any facility employed beyond the initial solid or liquid waste collection process and managing solid or liquid waste including, but not limited to: storage areas or facilities; transfer stations, rail-haul or barge-haul facilities; procession facilities; landfills; ashfills; disposal facilities; solid waste incinerators; resource recovery facilities; recycling facilities; and waste tire storage facilities, containment ponds or pools, sewage treatment plants and storage tanks or containers, or any other facility of any kind designated a solid waste management facility by the DEC.

**SOLID WASTE INCINERATOR** - an incinerator at which household waste and non-hazardous industrial/commercial waste are combusted for energy.

**SOUND AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES** - refers to those practices necessary for the on-farm production, preparation and marketing of agricultural commodities.

## **Sections VI. EXEMPTIONS**

A. The following are not subject to this Local Law:

1. Any disposal and storage of manure in farming operations following sound agricultural practices and not including sewage sludge processing and spreading.
2. Operations or facilities which receive or collect only non-putrescible, nonhazardous solid waste and beneficially use or reuse or legitimately recycle or reclaim such waste. Such exempt facilities are limited to citizen recycling programs, town recycling operations, composting, farming operations, town highway operations and bona-fide salvage dealers.
3. Any bona-fide solid waste management facility which is in operation under a permit issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as of the

date of this Local Law shall remain exempt under the current terms and conditions of its existing operating permit issued by the DEC.

- B. None of the above exemptions shall be construed to permit any activity contrary to existing building codes or other laws or as exempting any other permits required by state or local laws.

#### **Section VII. COORDINATION WITH STATE LAW**

- A. All relevant sections of Article 27 of the ECL and 6 NYCRR, Parts 360 to 364 and 617, are deemed to be included within and as part of this Local Law, and any violation thereof shall be considered to constitute a violation of this Local Law.
- B. The provisions of this Local Law shall be interpreted in such a manner as being consistent with state law, except that the more stringent requirements of this Local Law shall apply.

#### **Section VIII. PROHIBITION**

- A. No solid waste management facility shall hereafter be constructed, allowed to commence operation or to continue operation within the Town of Seneca Falls.

#### **Section IX. PENALTIES FOR OFFENSES: ENFORCEMENT**

- A. All violations of this Local Law or any of its regulations or provisions, shall be deemed Class A misdemeanors, punishable by a fine not exceeding ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars or imprisonment not exceeding one (1) year, or both. Each and every day that a violation of this Local Law is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.
- B. Any violation of this Local Law or regulations or provisions thereof shall create a liability to the people of the town for civil penalty not to exceed ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars, to be determined after a hearing or opportunity to be heard, upon due-notice and with the right to specification of the charges and representation by counsel at such hearing. Each and every day that a violation of this local law occurs or continues shall constitute a separate violation for purposes of civil liability.
- C. Upon any violation of this Local Law by any person, the Town of Seneca Falls shall be entitled to obtain an injunction against such persons prohibiting further violations and, in addition, ordering that any solid or liquid waste disposed of in violation hereof be removed from the Town, and ordering that any land on which solid or liquid waste is disposed of in violation of this Local Law be restored as nearly as possible to its former condition by the removal of any waste illegally disposed of and by such other restorative measures as are available, and further ordering that the operator remedy any effects of the violation of surrounding or adjacent properties or resources, including, without limitation, air, trees, crops, waterbodies, wetlands and groundwaters.

**Section X. SEVERABILITY**

If any part of the Local Law shall be judicially declared to be invalid, void, unconstitutional, or unenforceable, all unaffected provisions hereof shall survive such declaration, and this Local Law shall remain in full force and effect as if the invalidated portions had not been enacted.

**Section XI. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Local Law shall become effective when it is filed with the Secretary of State.